

Excessive Campus Meal Plan Options Restrict Students



Mandatory meal plan for residents forces students to pay high prices for food.

Munirah Hasan / Statesman

Student Activities Board Dissolved

SENATE OVERRIDES USG PRESIDENT'S VETO

By TIM MCHALE
Contributing Writer

The USG Senate overrode President Jean-Baptiste's veto of the USG Activities Board By-Laws Act 18-0 with one abstention last Tuesday. The bill was originally passed through the Senate 20-2 on Feb. 6th.

The purpose of the bill was to create more USG oversight over the Student Activities Board (SAB). In the opinion of the Senate, the SAB was running wild with no executive power. One example of this is concerning the allocation of \$3,080 to a Knicks game with no mass advertisement to the student body. This sort of behavior leads many critics of the USG to question which parties were buying these tickets, and whether this was an act of severe incompetence or purposeful unethical conduct. These critics also believe that the By-Laws governing the SAB need to be changed.

Concerning the bill, the SAB argued in defense that they were unaware of the issues of uncontrollable executive power and suggested that all the decisions regarding the bill were made "in closed door" Senate meetings. They also requested more time before any major decisions should be made. Other USG members

By SARAH KANTHARIA,
SURAJ RAMBHIA
Staff Writer and Editor-in-Chief

Added to most students' meal plan is a charge of several hundred dollars, used to maintain and renovate dining halls on campus. On the minimum resident plan of \$1,430, nearly \$270 goes to this Facility Fee. Commuters contribute to this fee as well, to varying degrees, with the Commuter Meal Plans offered by the Faculty Student Association. However, if a student pays \$1,000 for food in cash, they pay only \$86.25 in Suffolk County sales tax, compared with a much higher cost for the Facility Fee.

The maintenance and renovation of dining facilities relies upon the Facility Fee, much in the

way that room and board monies pay for the physical upkeep of the residence halls on campus. "Campus Dining is not university funded at all. All costs are covered by student meal plan payments," said Lisa Ospitale, Director of Marketing and Communications of Campus Dining Services.

The Stony Brook Facility Fee is less than some other colleges, including Westminster College at \$550 and SUNY Geneseo at \$330.

Ospitale maintains that "the meal plan does offer students convenience - they don't have to carry cash around."

According to Ospitale, the Facility Fee is being put to good use. "The renovations planned for EOB, the Bleacher Club, and

Roth Dining are funded by this Facility Fee. We need to maintain our existing facilities as well," said Ospitale.

Continuing dissatisfaction among students led to the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) Reform Party to make meal plan reform a centerpiece of their agenda. The FSA, at the urging of the USG, is currently negotiating an off campus points system, called Campus Cash. Students will be able to allocate a certain amount of money to an off campus debit account that can be used at approved vendors.

"This is one of the aspects of the campus points system we felt we could really work on, and the FSA seems actually excited about it," said Rob Romano, President

Pro-Tempore of the USG Senate and former Chair of the USG Reform Party. "If it wasn't for [USG] President Jean-Baptiste, we wouldn't be seeing this program right now."

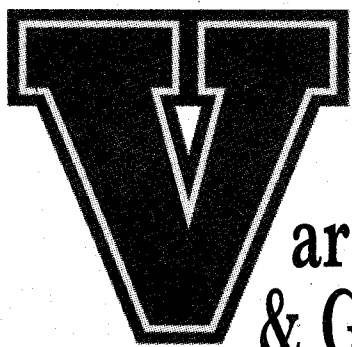
Student complaints regarding the campus points system do not end at the Facility Fee. Students on meal plans must spend at least \$40 every other Wednesday. Money is deducted biweekly if residents do not spend that minimum, up to \$40. The Campus Dining Services does this as a benefit to students, helping them to manage their remaining balance better, according to Ospitale.

"Of the resident students on campus, in the last two weeks

Continued on page 3

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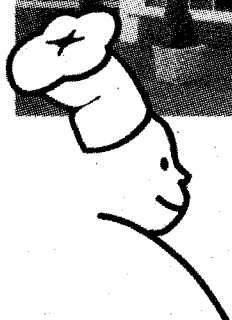


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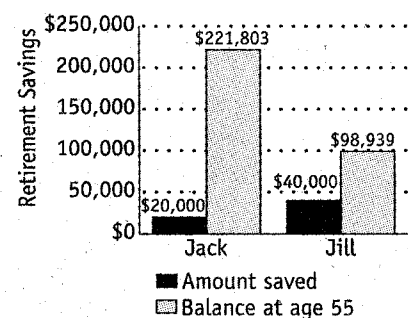
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Jack and Jill at Age 55



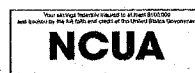
As the graph illustrates, even though Jack invests less money than Jill, he ends up with a lot more money at retirement and has 122,864 more reasons to celebrate his early farewell to the workforce. Jill, since she starts investing at 35, would have to contribute \$4,484 a year to match Jack's nest egg.

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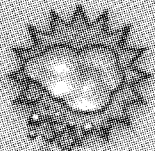
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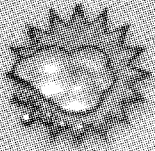
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Student Forecast:

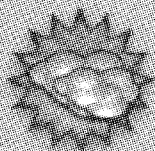
Feb. 26 - Mar. 3
by Jamie Waller



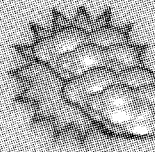
Monday:
High 36/Low 29
Cloudy with snow
showers



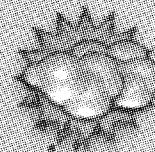
Tuesday:
High 40/Low 28
40% chance of a leftover snow
shower



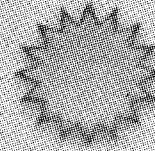
Wednesday:
High 41/Low 27
Cloudy and drier



Thursday:
High 42/Low 28
P. Cloudy AM, increasing
clouds late



Friday:
High 43/Low 32
Cloudy w/ rain showers



Saturday:
High 47/Low 36
Mostly clear and
warmer



Sunday:
High 44/Low 30
Mostly Cloudy

Behind the Numbers

The start of the work week will not be a pleasant or dry one. An area of low pressure is tracking its way off the Atlantic Coast and is bringing with it cold air and snow showers. Unlike the last ice event, the location of this low, being more offshore, will result in mostly snow showers for our region. Most of the accumulations will fall in the early hours on Monday, ranging from 3-6 inches. As with most storms of this type, the type of precipitation is not completely certain, as some freezing rain or sleet may mix in early, then changing over to snow during the day. The storm will move into New England on Tuesday.

A leftover snow shower is possible for Tuesday, but nothing too significant. Don't expect the snow to stay on the ground for long, because another storm will enter our area on Friday, this one being a rain event, and temperatures will be well into the upper 40's.

Campus Meal Points Forces Students to a Disadvantage

Continued from page 1

only \$200 worth of points was forfeited. So this is only a minor issue that doesn't affect many students at all," said Agnello. Ospitale added, "At this point in time, very few students are in this situation."

"That's bullsh-t," said Romano. "There must be a better way than taking money away from students."

Not all students are convinced that the current meal plan situation is optimal. Junior Thomas Gordon commented, "My meal points don't even last for a semester."

Junior Ivan Dragosky, a resident on the Silver Meal Plan, complained about his inability to get through the semester before running out of meal points. The Silver Meal Plan is comprised of 860 Campus Points and 400 Flex Credits and costs \$1530. "There has to be a better way," Dragosky said.

Previous to this current system of declining balances, Stony Brook employed a carte blanche, or buffet-style, point system. Much like the brunch at Kelly on the weekends, under the previous system students paid entrance

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Breaking Eating Disorder Perceptions

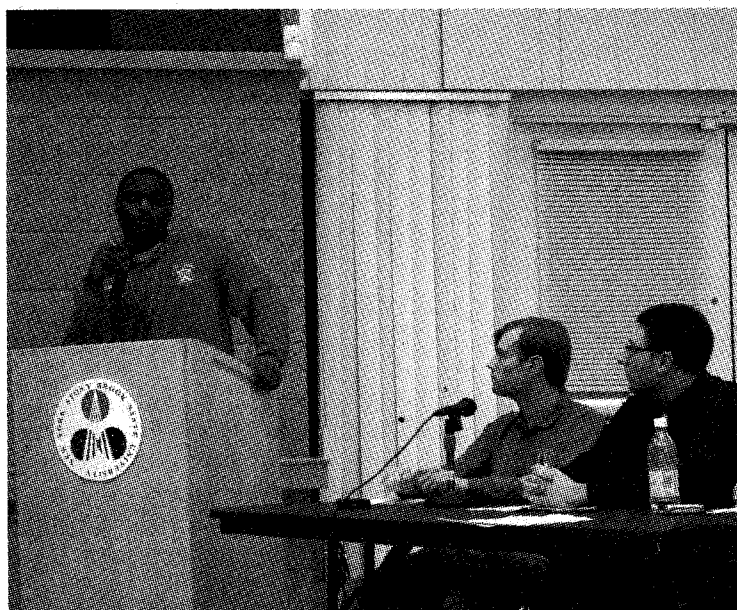
By STACEY GABRIEL
Contributing Writer

When people think of eating disorders, they often associate it with young, white, high school girls. Although most women who develop eating disorders tend to be white, many women from other ethnicities are affected as well. The sorority Zeta Phi Beta sponsored a program entitled "Black Women with Eating Disorders" to illuminate this problem.

Many students that attended the event seemed to believe the same misconception of eating disorders as being a white or suburban problem, but growing evidence indicates that

Continued on page 13

Senate Cites \$3,080 Knicks Tickets as Proof of Abuse of Executive Power by SAB



USG President Romual Jean-Baptiste, Senator Nathan Shapiro, and Senator Joseph Antonelli debate the USG Activities Board By-Laws Act.

Michael Davidson / Statesman

Continued from page 1

also agreed with this decision. "If you would be willing to sit down with me, [SAB Head Chair] Jackson Georges and [Vice President of Student Life] Trevor Hirst" to iron out some of the particulars said Sophomore Class Representative Jeffery Akita regarding the Senate's proposal for immediate action.

The Senate replied that the SAB should have brought their concerns to the Senate earlier instead of the broad complaints made regarding the legislation. The Senate also supported immediate action and originally suggested that Trevor Hirst, the Vice President of Student Life, should replace Chairmen Georges, which would give the power of the veto and the presiding officer over the board and body of the SAB.

The USG President, Romual Jean-Baptiste, requested a truce as he vetoed the bill. He also agreed with the idea of allowing more time for the SAB to investigate the issues before any drastic actions were made. A decision was finally formed where the Senators conceded, led by Senator Antonelli, and allowed George to stay as Chair but gave Hirst the power of the veto.

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Inside

Police Blotter

Feb. 20 - Feb. 21

Taken Rolls

On Feb. 20 around 10:00 AM, petit larceny was committed when rolls were taken from Sullivan Hall.

Skateboarders

Around noon on the Feb. 20, order was maintained around Whitman College in Roth Quad after skaters were removed from the area.

Smoke

On the afternoon of the Feb. 20, the smell of smoke was found on the 19th floor of the Health Sciences Center. No cause was found even after further investigation.

Suspicious Person

Around 4:00 PM, a suspicious person was escorted from E Loop Rd to the University Hospital's Emergency Room.

Car Accident

At 5:41 PM a motor vehicle accident occurred on the Main Entrance Rd. There were no serious injuries.

Another Car Accident

At 5:51 AM on Feb. 21, another car accident occurred near the Health Sciences Center. A car skidded off the road and onto a guard rail. There were no serious injuries and the car was towed.

More Skateboarders

Skateboarders were found around the Math Tower at around 3:00 PM. They were let off with just a warning, after they cooperated with authorities.

Criminal Misdemeanor

A criminal misdemeanor occurred in the Stadium Parking Lot when a car was damaged around 3:40 PM. Another criminal misdemeanor occurred shortly after in the Earth and Space Sciences Building when a window was broken in room 104.

COMPILED BY BEN HAYASHI

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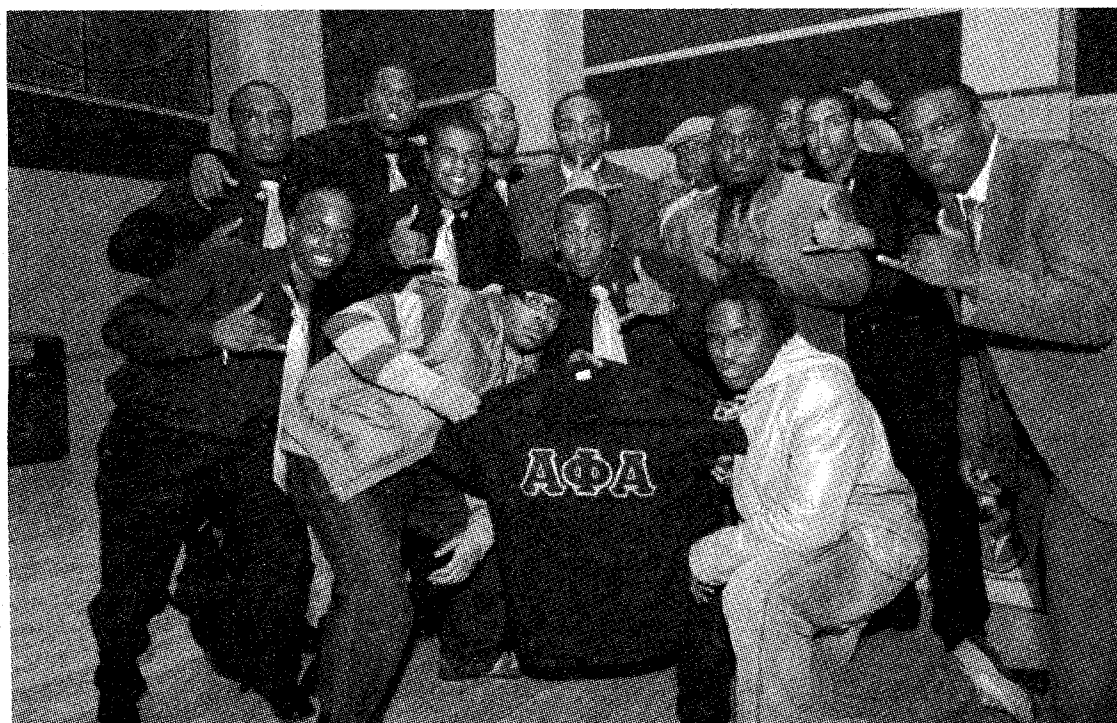
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INSIDE ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY



The members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity gather for a picture to represent their organization.

Courtesy of Jeffrey Paul

By YI-JIN YU
Staff Writer

Greek life here at Stony Brook is as much a part of campus dynamics as each of the 240+ individual clubs that cater to all 20,000+ students that walk by the SAC each semester. Stony Brook University is home to thirty-two fraternities and sororities and each organization has its own history and unique purpose. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. is one of these organizations that is recognized both by SBU's Inter-Fraternity and Sorority Council (IFSC) and by the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC).

Indeed, Alpha Phi Alpha is one of the oldest fraternities in the country and is the first inter-collegiate African-American interest Greek-letter fraternity. The brothers recently celebrated the organization's 100th anniversary this past December at Cornell University, where the first Alpha Phi Alpha chapter was founded on December 4, 1906. They are also the first fraternity within NPHC to reach this very significant and important milestone. As this organization has grown and expanded over the past century, they are still committed to its initial principles

in encouraging "scholarship, fellowship, good character, and the uplifting of humanity".

In aiming to uphold these standards, Alpha Phi Alpha sponsors many local and national programs in colleges, universities, and communities from coast to coast. Stony Brook's Rho Rho chapter of the fraternity runs a wide variety of activities and events that seek to educate the public on important social issues, advocate for the underserved, and support the general African-American population on campus and in surrounding regions.

Alpha Phi Alpha recently sponsored an educational workshop in conjunction with the Office of Diversity & Affirmative Action on Monday, February 19 entitled "Does Race Matter?". The workshop, held at the SAC in Room 305, helped facilitate discussions on race as an aspect of a larger societal structure that includes economic status, class position, and religious views. Workshops such as these and a mixture of other similar, mid-week, and extensive meetings target local audiences of students, community members, and local citizens to explore issues that affect their lives in relation to the

rest of society.

Outgoing senior and President Jeffrey Paul heads the fraternity's Rho Rho Chapter, currently a close-knit family of eleven brothers. In balancing event planning, daily paperwork, logistics, and checks and balances, Jeffrey Paul nevertheless remarks on how he "would not change his experiences" over his past three years with the frat. One of the skills he has mastered as a student leader and President is how to encourage his fellow brothers to volunteer in services and community outreach programs. Their chapter's ongoing programs include the local program, "Dear Mommy, Where's Daddy?" for single parent households and a national program for promoting higher education for current high school students by helping bring inner city students to Stony Brook for a taste of college classes and college life. Upcoming events include a Women's Appreciation Event at the Student Union Ballroom on Thursday, February 22 at 8pm, the Black and Gold Pageant on Saturday, February 24 at 7pm in the SAC Auditorium, and March Madness, a month-long series of educational programs every Wednesday at SAC at 8pm.

Student Profile of the Week

Diana Yacoub discusses the contributions she has made at Stony Brook over her five years here.

By SONAL HARNEJA
Staff Writer

Diana Yacoub, a senior here at Stony Brook, is anything but ordinary. She is one of the star students on campus who seldom has free time to herself due to her hectic schedule balancing school with extracurricular activities. Not that she minds, though. "It's been a great ride," she says happily referring to her past years at SBU.

A Nursing major, she is expected to graduate in May. However, it hasn't been the easiest of journeys. "[The experience] was great," she says, "but I'm ready to be done." She adds, "I have an excessive amount of credits," referring to her multiple changes in majors. She has gone through pre-med, biology, and chemistry. "Nursing was the one that stuck," she says. "It just took me five years," she adds laughing.

While Yacoub may have been here for five years, she has not let that time go to waste. In fact, she has embraced her time and filled her resume with extracurricular activities. "I was quite ambitious in high school and it just followed me here," she says.

The ambitious Yacoub got involved through the Learning Communities program at SBU when she was a freshman. "We had to do extracurricular



Courtesy of Diana Yacoub

activities. I actually enjoyed it a lot and I just kept on doing it through the years," she explains. The list is extensive. Not only has she been an RA for four years but she also been a clinical assistant, student nurse, direct care counselor, laboratory technician, and vet technician, only to name a few. While she may have done many activities, she has also devoted that much time and effort into everything she does. "Well, I love it," she says. "I love being involved."

Being involved is only the beginning. Yacoub also believes that getting involved is the first step in becoming a leader and role model. She has had many opportunities to prove herself as one. As an RA, she has

Continued on page 13

"It's so important to get involved because you can do something good and watch your community grow."

-Diana Yacoub

CD Review:

"Of Course"

By Make Believe

By WILL JAMES
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Last year, Make Believe drummer Nate Kinsella was escorted off stage in handcuffs for exposing himself to a crowd in a church basement during a show in the Bible Belt. As the clock counted down to his two-month jail sentence in Oklahoma, Make Believe buckled down and produced a mind-blowing follow up to 2005's "Shock of Being."

A disclaimer: Make Believe is one of the best bands out today, but their music is not for everyone. At first listen, it sounds like existential poetry yelped over cartoony circus themes. But it's far from nonsensical. It's interesting and intense and overwhelmingly intelligent. You might not be able to enjoy it like you enjoy conventional music - you will not sing along. The songs demand more attention than that. After experiencing Make Believe, though, you will be sure that you've heard something revolutionary, or at least genuinely unique.

Look at me. I've just succumbed to the same elitist indie snobbery that lead singer Tim Kinsella has been accused of inspiring for years. There's no other way to say it though: love it or hate it, the virtue of this music is its brainyness. It's like punk rock done by Picasso.

Tim Kinsella has appeared in a thousand different forms across the Chicago music scene, it seems. Joan of Arc, by far the weirdest of his bands, has released eight albums over the years, each one labeled "pretentious" by critics. Cap'n Jazz was said to have had a hand in founding the emo movement in the nineties. Even then, his music stood out as abstract and weird in a genre known for its simple honesty. Make Believe is culmination of a long career of musical experimentation and boundary-pushing.

"Of Course" is like a toned-down "Shock of Being" in some ways. The time signatures aren't quite as varied. Experiments in atonality still permeate the

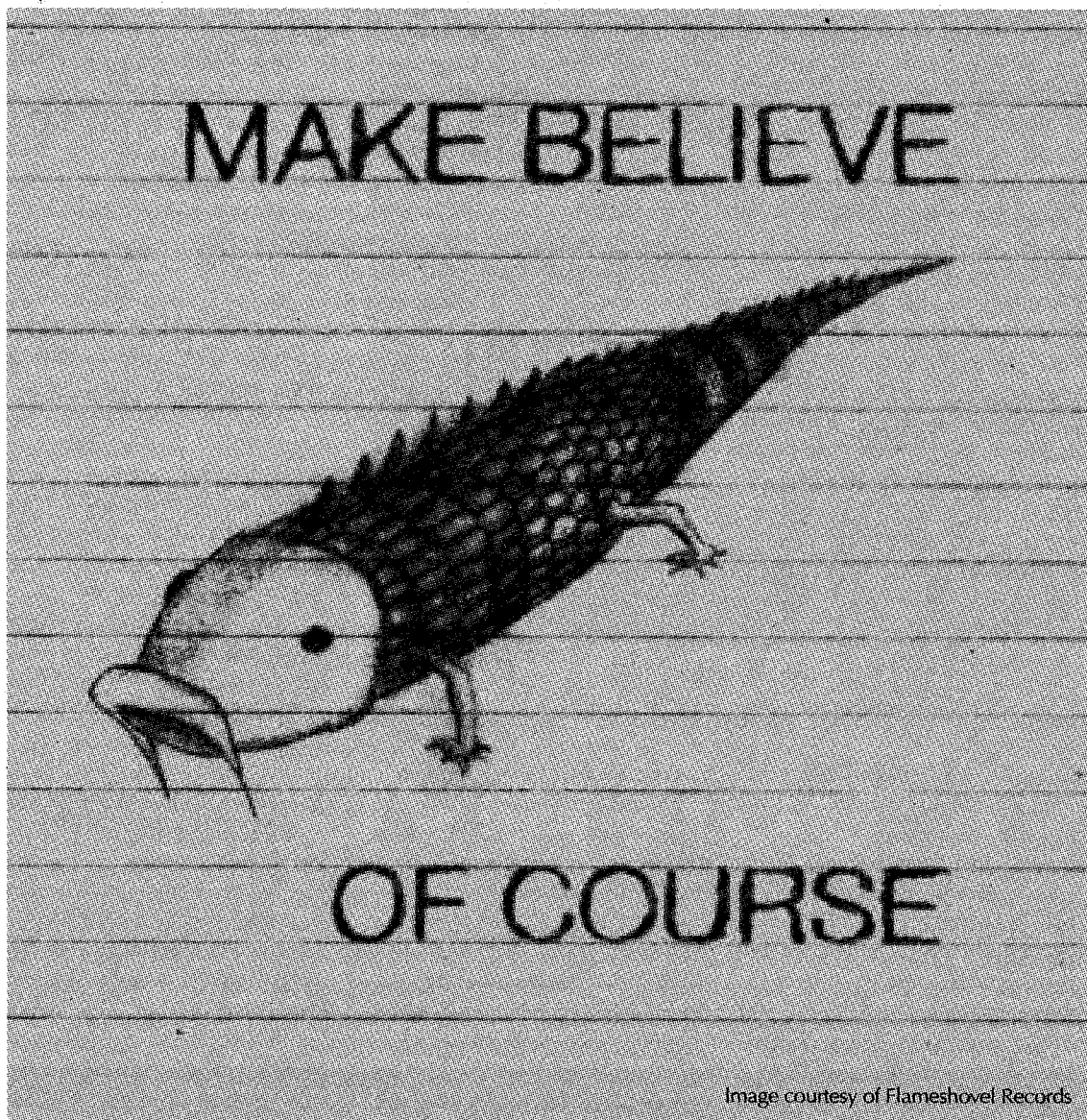


Image courtesy of Flameshovel Records

"There's no other way to say it: love it or hate it, the virtue of this music is its brainyness. It's like punk rock done by Picasso."

songs, but it's usually balanced by some basic melodic structure. The song structures themselves are slightly less irregular. It's a refreshing step toward something resembling normalcy, while maintaining the same weirdness that makes Make Believe great.

You can hear the amount of work and thought that went into every song - it makes the listening experience extremely satisfying, somehow. The complexity and orchestration of the songs is striking. Some songs feature Nate Kinsella (Tim's cousin) playing drums and Wurlitzer organ at the same time, like a stunt.

Kinsella's lyrics, as usual, are brilliant. They're cerebral and unbelievably bizarre, but somehow always clever. In tracks like Anything/Selling That Thing, the album closer, they're almost touching.

Other standout tracks include the opener, A Song About Camping. It's like a pop song gone wrong - the scratchy, atonal guitar noise compliments the relatively melodic vocal part and the bouncy groove. Pat Tillman, Emmitt Till is one of Make Believe's best songs yet. It's a poetic, abstract socio-political commentary sung over meandering musical parts. Gloriously brainy.

The album's length is disappointing. Two of the ten tracks aren't even "real" - just some weird studio noise and instrumental ambling. Maybe they ran out of time when Nate was sent up the river.

I've done my best to explain the latest release of an inexplicable band. Maybe you'll listen to "Of Course" and you just won't get it. Maybe you'll get it, and you just won't like it. Maybe you'll call it annoying and pretentious. But maybe, like me, you'll see something beautiful in all the weirdness and chaos. Maybe you'll recognize that in some strange way, this band has reinvented its own brand of punk rock.

Get Your Read On

LISEY'S STORY

BY STEPHEN KING

By WILL JAMES
Arts and Entertainment Editor

A couple of years and two books since his supposed "retirement" from writing, Stephen King, one of America's best modern storytellers, has created one of the best books of his career. *Lisey's Story*, which debuted in Oct. 2006, explores love, life, art, and death in ways that his previous "literary" works have left us lusting for.

Anyone who's familiar with King is well-acquainted with his artistic divide. He's world famous for his horror stories - dark, Lovecraftian explorations of the imagination that are built to warp and stimulate the muscles that churn out our dreams. However, works like *The Talisman*, *The Stand*, and *Hearts in Atlantis*, which employ some horror elements, are totally different in nature - character-driven modern fairytales that border on "literature." They explore people and lives in the same way, with the same unbelievable depth, that his more classic writing explores the dark side of the universe and the mind. *Lisey's Story* is one of these.

Lisey is the widow of Scott Landon, a renowned New England novelist. Two years after his death, a series of psychological barriers prevent Lisey from remembering some of her strangest, most wonderful, and most terrible moments with her husband. Little by little, she gets wrapped up in a journey of recollection and starts to piece together a mystery that ran beneath the entirety of their relationship.

And so, Scott Landon comes to life. By the end of the book, you've lived through his twisted childhood. You've weathered the bizarre, supernatural circumstances that defined his life and art. You've grown to love Lisey, and you've watched her become a hero. It makes you want the book to go on forever.

The story starts a bit slow, but

develops a nice pace after a bit. Once you start piecing together Scott's history, you'll be glued. Every one of Lisey's recollections is a shocker; every one is a self-contained story. The supernatural elements consist of cross-dimensional world jumping, recalling *The Dark Tower* Series and *The Talisman*.

Fans of King might recognize *Lisey's Story* as his most personal book. Scott Landon is, after all, a famous writer. At one level, the book aspires to depict Scott's creative process, and the events that shaped

him as an artist. Many of the more supernatural elements of the book serve as symbols of the creative dynamic - imagination vs. insanity.

The fact that the book is biographical of Lisey and Scott (and potentially symbolically autobiographical) makes it all the more powerful. You won't have been more attached to the characters since *Hearts in Atlantis*. The story itself is compelling and exciting. King's best qualities, his hyperactive imagination and his insight into basic humanity, are running in full gear after all these years.

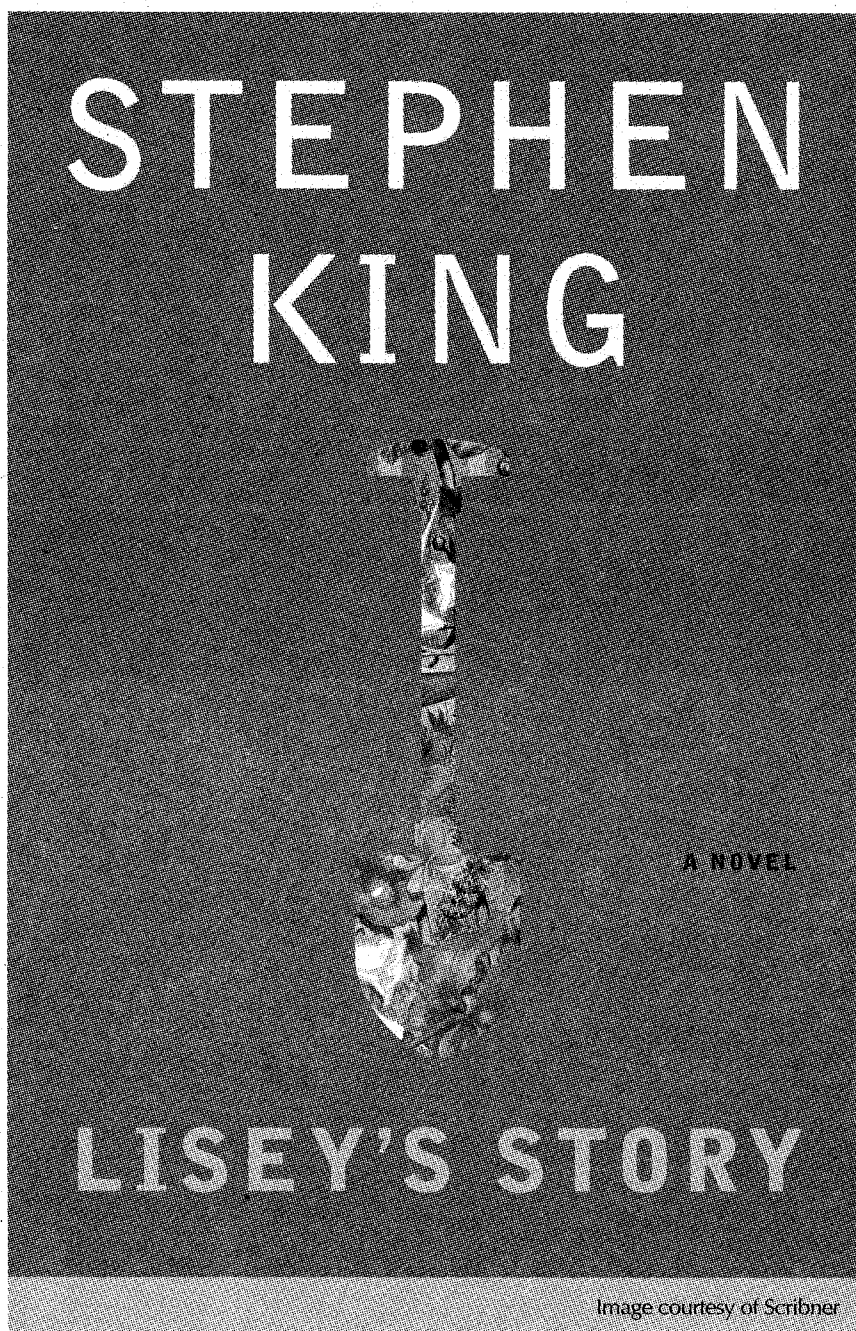


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A Reminder from

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www.stonybrook.edu/financialaid

2006-2007 (Current Year) Applications IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

Students who have **NOT** applied for financial aid for 2006-2007 (current year):

- File the 2006-2007 (**FAFSA**) immediately! Go to FAFSA on the Web (www.fafsa.ed.gov) and follow the instructions (Stony Brook's federal school code = 002838)

Federal regulations require students to file the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* in enough time for Stony Brook to receive an electronic copy of a *valid Student Aid Report (SAR)* prior to the last day of classes for the spring semester – May 4, 2007. Federal financial aid cannot be processed after your last day of class attendance.

- The deadline to apply for New York State TAP is May 1, 2007.

Summer 2007 Financial Aid Application

Continuing students enrolled for the summer can request to be considered for the following available programs administered in the summer: Federal Work-Study, Federal Pell, Federal Stafford Loan (Subsidized and Unsubsidized), and NY State TAP. The *Summer Financial Aid Request* link is accessible on Stony Brook's SOLAR System from April 1 to mid-August.

Summer Application Steps:

1. File the 2007-2008 FAFSA (www.fafsa.ed.gov) with federal school code 002838.
2. Enroll for the summer term
3. Submit your summer request on-line via the *Summer Financial Aid Request* link on SOLAR prior to the end of the summer term
(NOTE: Deadline for requesting summer Federal Work-Study is May 1, 2007 in addition to filing the FAFSA by March 1, 2007).

2007-2008 Applications

1. Students should file the 2007-2008 **FAFSA** with Stony Brook's federal school code 002838 so that it is received by the federal processor by March 1, 2007 to be considered for campus-based financial aid programs: Federal Work-Study, Federal SEOG (grant), and Federal Perkins Loan.

- Go to **FAFSA** on the web (www.fafsa.ed.gov) and apply on-line (students who applied for aid last year may be able to complete a renewal **FAFSA**). If you are unable to apply on-line, you can mail a paper **FAFSA** to the federal processor.

2. NY State Residents: Apply for the *Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)* and other NY State Grants and Scholarships.

- If you file a **FAFSA** electronically and indicate that you are a New York State resident, you will be able to link to your on-line TAP application at the end of the **FAFSA** session. If you missed the NYS link or you filed a paper **FAFSA**, you can apply directly at www.hesc.org (Stony Brook's state school codes: undergraduates = 0875; graduates = 5430).



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GET INVOLVED

Statesman production meetings are held throughout the day on Wednesdays and Sundays in Rm 057 in the basement of the Student Union. Anyone wishing to contribute to the newspaper is welcome to attend these meetings.

The Statesman encourages readers to submit opinions and commentaries to the following address:

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To view previous issues, extra material, and to learn about how to get involved with the Statesman, visit our website at sbstatesman.org.

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WHO WE ARE

The Stony Brook Statesman was founded as "The Socolian" in 1957 at Oyster Bay, the original site of Stony Brook University. In 1975 "The Statesman" was incorporated as a not-for-profit, student-run organization. Its editorial board, writing, and photography staff are student volunteers while its business staff are professionals.

The Stony Brook Statesman is published twice-weekly on Mondays and Thursdays throughout the fall and spring semesters.

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Injecting Some Reality into the Meal Plan Debate

Imagine walking into a local Chinese restaurant. In addition to paying for your food, you start having to pay an additional facility fee to keep the owner's building running, clean, and up-to-date. This is what you're doing every time you use a meal plan as a system of payment on campus. In addition to the overpriced food, we're paying even more money for the maintenance of the dining facilities we use. This system defies all common sensibilities. It is the kind of warped reality that can only develop in an isolated system, like Stony Brook University.

The solution? Let the hungry, oppressed students out into the streets. The Reform Party's plan for Campus Cash, which would allow students to use campus points at local restaurants, might shock the system enough to whip the FSA into shape. Making Stony

Brook more like the real world might make the system of student fees a bit more realistic. Adding some local competition might force FSA to find a more realistic way to pay for its fixed costs (less like our hypothetical Chinese restaurant from earlier).

In the real world, people find ways to do the "impossible." For example, store owners find ways to keep their prices reasonable and pay their fixed costs without demanding subsidies from their patrons. For the FSA, maintaining their facilities without student subsidies might seem "impossible" on paper. But, like so many real businesses outside academia, they'll have to find a way (especially if students have outside alternatives in the future).

After all, what's the big deal? They have a captive audience and guaranteed food traffic. It's any "real" business' dream.

A Good Override

We applaud the Senate for taking the responsibility for the shortcomings of the Student Activities Board. Spending 3080 dollars on Knicks tickets without mass advertising to the student body, among other failures in leadership, surely deserves some disciplinary action.

One thing that puzzles the average student might be the original veto of the USG Activities Board By-Laws Act by USG President Romual Jean-Baptiste. If it was known that the SAB e-board members weren't abiding by their rules and regulations, why should there be any type of waiting period, while the SAB members responsible for the abuse of power still have the ability to perform their duties.

The fact that there was any type

of waiting period is mind-boggling. Furthermore, it was not made apparent by the USG President that he actually disapproved of the SABs e-board member's actions. If our own USG President doesn't see that improper use of student's money is cause for severe disciplinary action along with some show of outward disapproval of the actions of SAB members, then he isn't supporting the students, and he isn't doing his job.

On the other hand, Senators Shapiro and Antonelli along with the other senators who voted for the USG Activities Board By-Laws Act, have shown that they do have the welfare of the students in mind by dutifully setting up a plan for reorganization of the SAB leadership, preventing any lapse in services to the student body.

We Need An Essay!

By SURAJ RAMBHIA
Editor-in-Chief

The entrance application to SBU needs an essay. I've said it before, and I'm going to say it again. We cannot continue to have a simple, optional online writing assessment for students who have already been admitted. Rather, like other top universities, we should use an essay to select our students.

Writing is a skill students are expected to have developed in grade school. Higher standards should not be expected from just the selected programs such as the Honors College and Women in Science and Engineering.

The University has, over the past several years, under the leadership of President Kenny, increased its overall academic standards. Increases in average GPA, SAT, and ACT marks for students do show the rising caliber of the student body. Mandating an essay would be the next logical step.

Schools such as NYU, where the median SAT score of incoming freshmen have become comparable to the SAT scores of incoming SB freshman, around 1200 on the old scale, have always had an edge in recruitment against public universities such as Stony Brook because of the perception that a university is better if its application process is more stringent. Not having an essay, just further promotes the perception that SB, a public school, is inferior to NYU, a private school.

Why SB doesn't have an essay on its application is puzzling considering that other SUNY universities have a supplemental application for a large fraction of their student bodies that includes an essay and other short answers. This list of SUNY universities includes, SUNY Buffalo, Cortland, Geneseo, Fredonia, Old Westbury, Oneonta, Plattsburgh and Purchase. While all these universities are probably not at the caliber of Stony Brook

in terms of overall academics, research facilities, and educational opportunities, administration at these SUNY universities do understand that students have to put in some personal effort into the college admissions process.

Anyone can ask the Educational Testing Service to send to a set of universities. Getting a teacher recommendation also doesn't require individual effort. Writing one's name, address, and social security number, on the main SUNY application surely doesn't require much effort at all.

As a result, students applying for college feel it is easy to get admitted to Stony Brook. Students apply to Stony Brook because it takes less time. Furthermore, students who want to get into a competitive college don't feel like wasting their time and money on an application that has no actual academic value. Competitive students who do submit the main SUNY application only use Stony Brook as a "safety school."

In a recent student media press conference with President Kenny, she mentioned the difficulty in recruiting students from Nassau County Schools. Kenny said, "Sometimes the hardest people to convince are the ones living in your own backyard."

That may be the case, but if one sees that high schools in Nassau County are amongst the highest ranked public schools in the nation, one starts to think: the schools with the best students are those that shy away from Stony Brook.

I could go on and on. But, in the end, it's up to the administration to give undergraduate admission to Stony Brook some academic value. Make it mandatory for high school seniors to submit an essay, and see our university make countless strides in terms of student recruitment, undergraduate academic performance, and the University's overall image in communities locally and across the country.

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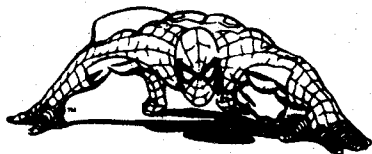
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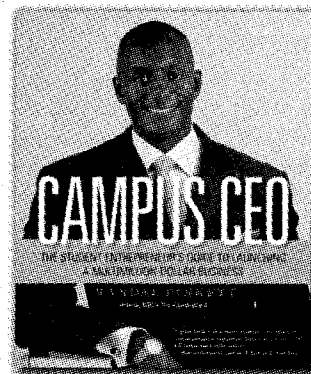
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Women's Hoops Over Vermont

Continued from page 16

sure and were able to slowly claw their way back into the game.

Leah Getz hit a jumper for SB with under a minute to play in the half which cut the Catamount's lead to 48-45. After a slow start to the game, the Seawolves went into the break only down 50-45. Vermont had one of its best shooting halves, percentage wise, of the season in the first half as the team shot 64 percent from the field.

Jessica Smith scored 19 points in the first half for the Seawolves, which helped counter the good shooting from the visiting squad. The Catamounts stretched their lead to six after Brittney Cross sank a three pointer. However, SB managed to tie the game after a Getz three point play, and then proceeded to take the lead a few plays later off a fast break lay-up by Mykeema Ford.

The momentum and the lead shifted from side to side over the next eight minutes until the Catamounts went on a 6-1 run giving themselves a 74-69 lead with about three minutes remaining in the game. Dana Ferraro hit a lay-up for SB with 23 seconds left in regulation. The Seawolves played stout defense and didn't allow Vermont to get a clean look at the basket, which resulted in an extra five minutes of play.

In the overtime period, Smith and Vermont's Courtney Pilypaitis swapped baskets until Smith scored on a three point play, giving SB an 86-83 lead with 2:19 showing on the clock. The Seawolves shot 7-10 from the field and 5-7 from the foul line in overtime which gave them the nine point victory.

Smith tied her career-high with 30 points, which she previously set against Vermont in 2005, and was named America East co-player of the game. She went 14-24 from the field and grabbed nine rebounds. Ford added 22 points and eight assists, Ferraro had 15 points and eight rebounds and Cheri Davis recorded a double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

The Catamounts had five players score in double figures, and were lead by Cihal's 20 points and 12 rebounds. The Seawolves' will be looking for their six straight win when they travel to Albany this Wednesday.

Breaking the Stereotypes of Eating Disorders

Continued from page 3

women from other ethnicities are also falling prey to these disorders. A panel consisting of experts from the Women and Gender Resource Center included Smita Majumbar, a post-doctoral resident, and Michael Bombardieri PhD. Dr. Bombardieri stated, "Research indicates, that it seems as African American women assimilate into the majority culture, they begin to internalize the same way as their white counterparts, so black women begin to develop the same issues about food and body image."

Majumbar explained that women who suffer from eating disorders develop disoriented images about themselves. Women of color are torn between identifying with two body ideals: the ideal desire by the dominate culture to be extremely thin and the historic appreciation for women with curves.

These women are often unable to receive the help they need because eating disorders are considered taboo in their community. Angelica Jones, an African American woman who suffered for bulimia and anorexia, recalls the first time her parents were notified about her problem, she states, "My parents reaction to my eating disorder was 'here's a burger and eat. You will be alright.' And after that we never spoke about it."

According to the National Eating Disorder Screening Program, 15 percent of all young women have substantially disordered eating behaviors. Of that number, some two to three percent develop bulimia and about one percent becomes anorexic.

In the words of one speaker, Mari Hall, "It starts with the younger generation, and we need to encourage them to be their own people. Tell them that they are beautiful and teach them to have mental strength."

Lacrosse Falls to Virginia

Continued from page 15

completely shut down the Seawolves, scoring 3 unanswered goals, with the first 2 coming from Danny Glading. UVA's offense was strong at this point, clearing the ball 7 of 7 times. SB was recorded as clearing 7 of 9 times, but Sowell feels that the statistics are "misleading," adding that his definition of clearing includes the team staying on offense.

In the final 15 minutes of the game, UVA scored 5 more goals, to put them up 15-5. Two of the goals came from Jack Riley, who came off the bench to score 4 goals. In the final minutes of the game, UVA changed goalies, and SB scored two goals in the last 1:01, with the goals coming from Tripodi and Taylor Eason.

SB goalkeeper Brendan Callahan had a rough day, making 19 saves, but having 15 goals

going against him, including 4 from UVA's Glading. The two Maryland natives have known each other since high school. The Seawolves also turned the ball over 18 times compared to 13 from UVA. UVA outshot SBU, 42-29.

The game was a homecoming of sorts for 5 UVA players, most notably seniors Ricky Smith, Drew Thompson, with the 5 players all hailing from Long Island. On the SB side, more than half the team is from Long Island, including several players from nearby towns of Port Jefferson Station and Setauket.

Sowell didn't pin all of the blame for the loss on Virginia, saying, "we left some goals out there," and mentioning their problems clearing the ball, which has been a strength during the preseason. He expressed confidence about their upcoming games, and saying that the team

went in with "13 guaranteed opportunities."

Callahan said, "Virginia kept getting chance after chance," reiterating that SBU handed their opponents some opportunities, which they capitalized on.

Last year, the two teams played in Virginia, and the Cavaliers came out winners, by a score of 17-4. At times, things looked better than last year for SB, and at times they seemed just as bad. Sowell says that next year, they'll head south to face Virginia once more. This game marked the first time in 7 years that UVA Lacrosse traveled to Long Island. They are now 4-0 all-time against SB, though the margins of victory have shrank from 21, to 14, to 13, and finally to 8.

The Seawolves return to action on Saturday, when they host Harvard, ranked 19th in the nation last year. The game begins at 1PM, at LaValle Stadium.

Women's Basketball Team Beats Binghamton

Continued from page 15

A Kelly Watson jump shot put the Seawolves back on top, 29-28, just before halftime.

In the second, Stony Brook came out swinging, with a multi-pronged offensive effort, including layups, jumpers, and three-point shots from several players. Their biggest lead of the half was by nine, and Binghamton never got closer than three points behind.

Four Seawolves had 10 or more points, and were lead by senior guard Mykeema Ford, who had 28 in a full 40 minutes of play. Binghamton had only one player reach double-digit points. They were nearly 50% accurate on field goals, compared to 37% for the Bearcats.

Meal Plan Options Restrict Students

Continued from page 3

fees into a facilities and gained access to all-you-can-eat buffets. In 1998, partly due to rising student dissatisfaction, the University negotiated the current declining balance system with Chartwells.

Romano, having spent time at SUNY New Paltz, was impressed by their hybrid carte blanche – declining balance system. "We thought it was pretty cool," Romano said. He would like to see more buffet-style facilities on this campus as well.

Cate Contino, Program Director of NYPIRG, responded to Campus Dining's indirect communication with Stony Brook students by citing the "need to see transparency in their operations." She continued to say that "this is important in order to promote dialogue and eventually see improvements."

Romano echoed this opinion, saying, "Students need to keep advocating for their interests. The FSA is far more receptive than most students imagine."

James Bouklas contributed reporting.

Student Profile Continued...

Continued from page 5

implemented educational and community awareness programs. She has performed nursing duties in the Surgical ICU and Pediatric ICU at SBUMC. She has also interned at YAI, Young Adult Institute, where she helps mentally disabled adults live on their own. She was even invited to be a guest speaker at the YAI/NIPD International Conference on Developmental and Learning Disabilities.

Despite all the accomplishments, Yacoub has been very humble. She says, "I was lucky. I got involved." She adds, "It's so important to get involved because you can do something good and watch your community grow."



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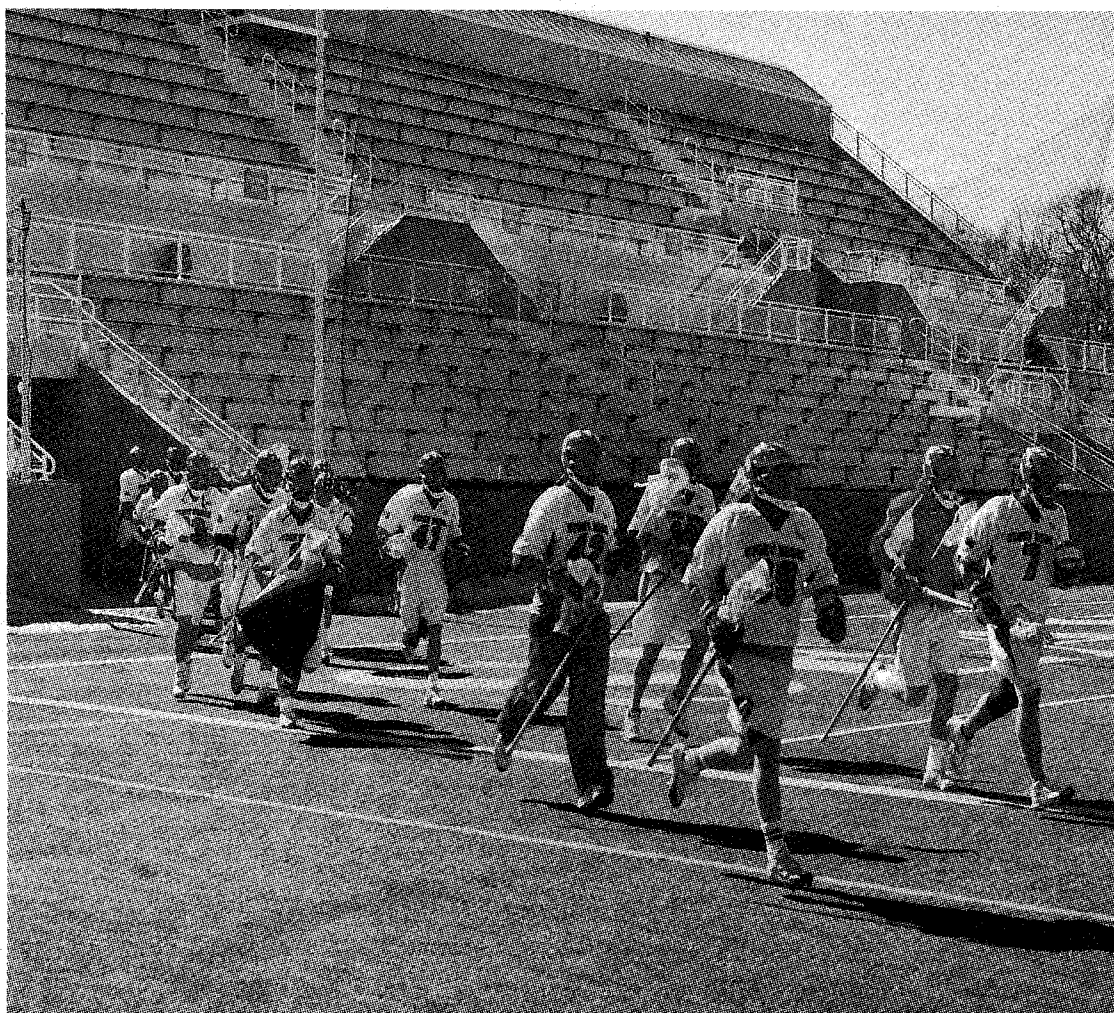
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The men's lacrosse team takes the field for their game against the national champion Virginia Cavaliers.

Vilain Trub/Statesman

Women's Basketball Beats Binghamton On Road

By WILLIAM LAHTI
Sports Editor

The Stony Brook Seawolves Women's Basketball team beat the Binghamton Bearcats on Wednesday by a score of 71-62, marking their first win at Binghamton in nine games.

The game was close early, but Stony Brook pulled away in the second half. In the first half, Stony Brook went on a 10-0 run, which the Bearcats answered with a 9-0 run. Binghamton took the lead with just under 4 minutes left in the half.

Continued on page 13

Men's Lacrosse Loses Opener, 15-7

Continued from page 16

and Robert Trenkle. Tripodi would finish the game with goals and an assist. UVA scored only one goal during SBU's 3-goal run. However, the Trenkle goal, scored with 9:47 left in the second, would be the last one the Seawolves would score until 1:01 left in the game. UVA scored one more goal in the second to go into halftime with a 7-5 lead.

After the break, Virginia

Continued on page 13

Men's Basketball Beaten by Albany

Continued from page 16

sion down 37-17. A heave from behind half court by one of the Seawolves went in the basket just after time expired, bringing fans to their feet the first time all game.

Even though the basket didn't count, it seemed to give the home team a morale boost. After allowing Albany to hit half of their shots in the first half, Seawolves buckled down on defense and held Albany to 36% from the field in the second.

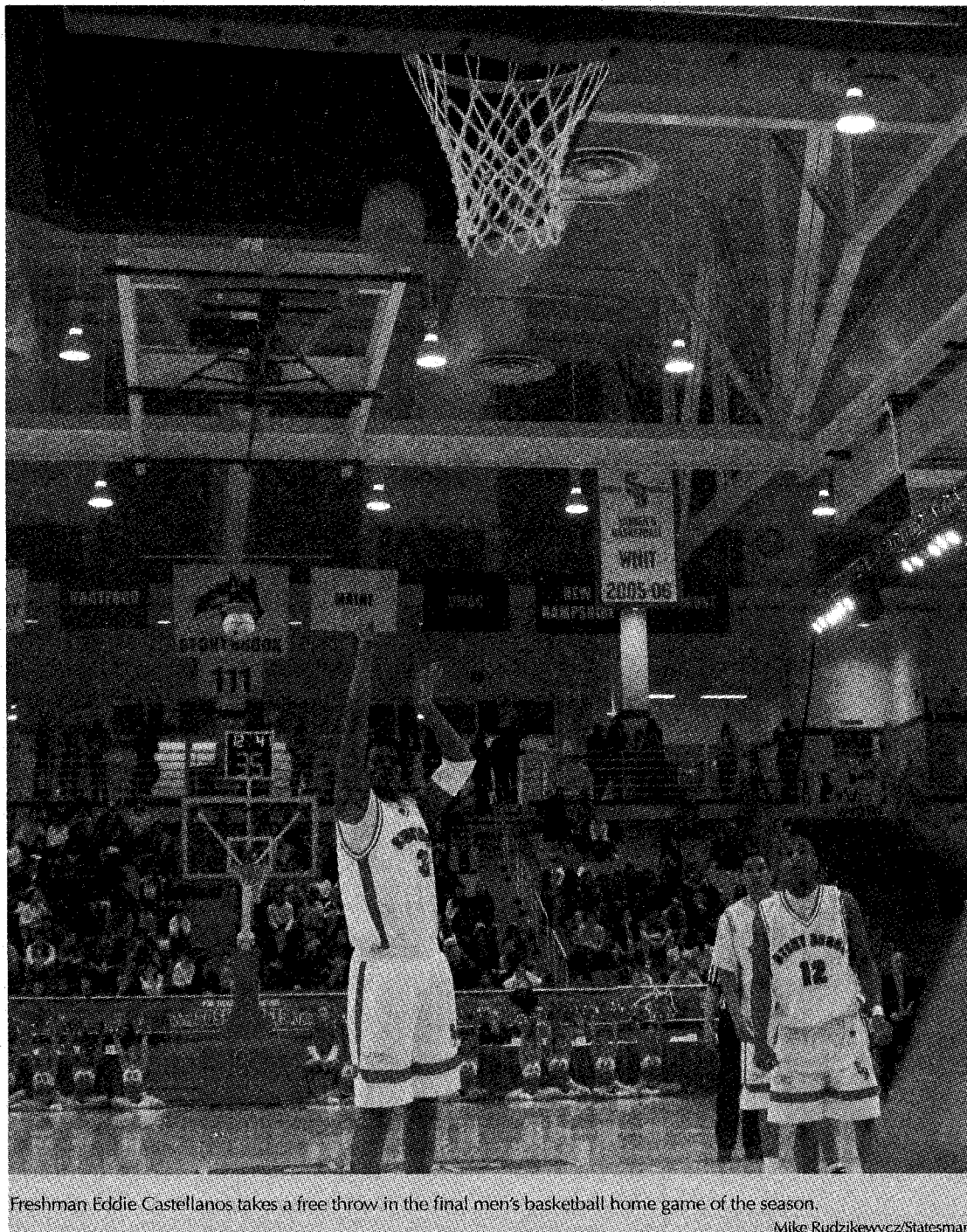
Opening the second stanza with a more energized effort, the Seawolves would still fall behind 22-48 at the 13:33 mark, before going on an 8-0 run. This would bring the deficit down to 18 points- the closest SB would get the rest of the game. Albany then held SB in check, matching them

basket for basket after the run.

Coach Pikiell said, "We've had games. We've just got to play 40 minutes of basketball." The game resembled many of the others this season, as SB would play 2 completely different halves. When they've put it all together, the result was a victory, as seen by last Sunday's win against New Hampshire. Games like this one, however, show the improvement the Seawolves need, to become a team like Albany.

"It's progress. We went from four wins last year to nine [wins] this year. That's just where we are."

The last game of the regular season for the Seawolves (4-11 conference, 9-18 overall) is Sunday, Feb. 25 against Maine. SB looks to post one more win before the America East Tournament begins on Mar. 2.



Freshman Eddie Castellanos takes a free throw in the final men's basketball home game of the season.

Mike Rudzikewycz/Statesman



Statesman SPORTS

Men's Lacrosse Falls to National Champs in Season Opener

By WILLIAM LAHTI
Sports Editor

The Stony Brook (SB) Seawolves Men's Lacrosse team was defeated by the University of Virginia (UVA) Cavaliers on Saturday by a score of 15-7. Most of the first half was very close, but SBU melted down afterwards, failing to score for over 38 minutes straight. This was the first game for SBU, which went 8-7 last year. Virginia, which went a perfect 17-0 in their national title campaign last year, improved its record to 1-1. 2,262 came out to LaValle Stadium on a cold day to see the game.

The game represented Head Coach Rick Sowell's maiden effort at the helm of SBU Men's Lacrosse, something he's been "very excited" about since the August press conference announcing his hiring.

Just over two minutes in, SB took the first goal of the game, with the unassisted score coming from junior midfielder, Rhys Duch. UVA scored two goals, and SB one more, to tie it at two midway through the first quarter. The Cavaliers scored three more goals to wrap up the first quarter with a 5-2 lead.

In the early stages of the second quarter, SB showed some strength, with goals from Bo Tripodi, Ryan Hughes,

Continued on page 15



Senior guard Mykeema Ford scored with 22 points in their win against Vermont

Vilan Trub/Statesman

Overtime Efficiency Gives Seawolves Home Victory Over Vermont

Women's Basketball Records Sixth Straight Win

By JOSH SEIDMAN
Staff Writer

The 96 points tallied by the Stony Brook (SB) women's basketball team this past Saturday against Vermont not only gave the team its twelfth win out of its last thirteen games, but it also set a new team record for the largest point total in their Division I history. This is the first time the team has cracked the 90 point mark, since the 2002-2003 season when they beat New Hampshire 90-72.

The Seawolves outscored the

Catamounts 19-10 in the overtime period and were thus able to pull out the 96-87 victory. The win improved SB's record to 16-10 overall and 12-2 in the conference, while the loss, Vermont's third in a row, dropped the team's record to 16-11 overall and 6-8 in conference play.

"These type of games are what it's all about this time of year," said head coach Maura McHugh. "Jess and Mykeema have always stepped up when a challenge presented itself and tonight was no different."

Throughout the early stages of the first half this contest it seemed like the Catamounts were going to run away with the lead and snap the Seawolves' four game winning streak. Vermont began the game on fire as they nailed 12 of their first 18 shots from the field. This sharp shooting by the opposition put the Seawolves in a 19 point hole, 30-11, with a little over 10 minutes remaining before half-time. As the first half continued, the Seawolves kept their compo-

Continued on page 13

Men's Basketball Defeated in Home Finale

By SHONTO OLANDER
Staff Writer

Stony Brook, NY- In the their final home game Thursday night, Stony Brook (SB) fell behind early in the first half and couldn't put together a strong enough effort against the conference's second seed. The Albany Great Danes managed to shoot 52% from the field and hit 75% of their shots from downtown, all in the first half, and rolled to a 20 point win.

"We played great the other night, but our seniors, whom I love, struggled tonight. Also, Albany made all their open shots," head coach Steve Pikiell said. "They held our leading scorer Ricky Lucas to 7 points, and he's averaging over 15 a game."

SB as a team had trouble finding their shot, managing only 46 points in the game. The Seawolves trailed by double digits, after shooting 35%. Mitchell Beauford from the Seawolves, led all scorers with 20 points, but no other player had double figures. Jamar Wilson's 19 points and 6 assists and Jason Siggers 15 points and 7 rebounds led Albany, who are now 12-3 conference, 19-9 overall.

The game began with a layup by Eddie Castellanos that gave the Seawolves their only lead of the game, a 2-0 advantage that quickly turned into a 4-15 deficit. SB would struggle to score for the remainder of the half, entering the intermis

Continued on page 15